

PREVIOUSLY IN:

WOLVERINE



"To declare that in the administration of criminal law the end justifies the means... would bring terrible retribution."

—JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

Stamford, Connecticut. While on the power-enhancing drug known as **MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE** or "**MGH**," Robert Hunter a/k/a **NITRO** creates a devastating explosion responsible for the death of over 600 men, women and children. The incident spurs passage of the **SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT** which, among other things, makes all unlicensed and unauthorized superhuman activity illegal.

Undeterred by the Act's passage, or the objections of several of his colleagues, Wolverine makes it his personal mission to bring Nitro to justice. In the course of that endeavor, he learns that **WALTER DECLUN**, CEO of the reconstruction corporation, **DAMAGE CONTROL, INC.**, has been encouraging superhuman conflict by various means—including providing Nitro with MGH—in order to create more devastation and, therefore, reap greater profits.

With Nitro left in the hands of a vengeful **ATLANTIS**, Wolverine shifts his sights to Declun and Damage Control, waging a one-man war designed to bankrupt the company.

However, Damage Control has been salvaging weapons and technology from the superhuman battle sites it has serviced over the years and brought those weapons to bear against Wolverine...

"PAYBACK"

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LIKE IF
I GOT INTO
SOMETHING
I COULDN'T
HANDLE
MYSELF.

LIKE IF HE
SHOWED UP.

LOGAN...
STAND
DOWN.

LOOK, BOB,
I KNOW YOU
AIN'T KNOWN ME
THAT LONG.

PLUS YOU
GOT THE
CRAZY THING
GONG...

BUT YOU
SHOULD KNOW,
I'M THE KINDA GUY
WHO STANDS UP,
NOT DOWN.

YOU'RE IN
VIOLATION OF 6 USC § 556,
A.K.A. THE "SUPERHUMAN
REGISTRATION ACT," AS
WELL AS CHAPTER 40,
ARTICLE 120, SECTION
120 OF THE NEW YORK
PENAL CODE

OOO!

SORRY, BUB.
COULDN'T HEAR
YA. MIND REPEATIN'
THAT LAST PART?

ALLOW ME TO
TRANSLATE.





THIS
WILL NEVER
WORK.

TELL YOU
WHAT, WE'LL
LET THE BOARD
VOTE ON IT
AND SEE.

THIS COMPANY--
THE COMPANY THAT UNDER
YOUR STEWARDSHIP WAS FLIRTING
WITH BANKRUPTCY--HAS SHOWN A
PROFIT IN THE LAST THREE QUARTERS,
POSTED RECORD GAINS ON THE NYSE
AND IS FRANCHISING INTO THREE
MAJOR MARKETS AS WE SPEAK.

WHY THE HELL
WOULD THE BOARD EVER
VOTE TO REMOVE ME AS CEO?



WELL, EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T
THE LOWEST FORM OF
HUMAN LIFE I'VE EVER
ENCOUNTERED--

--AND I'VE
MET THE RED
SKULL--

--THAT LACK
OF EVOLUTION IS
STARTING TO IMPACT
THIS COMPANY'S
BOTTOM LINE.

OR HAVEN'T
YOU NOTICED WE'RE
HEMORRHAGING SO
MUCH MONEY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE WE'RE
ONCE MORE FLIRTING
WITH BANKRUPTCY?

BUT YOUR CONSCIENCE WAS
CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT OVER
THE PAST THREE YEARS AS
I WAS TURNING DAMAGE
CONTROL'S RED INK INTO
BLACK.

WHERE WAS
YOUR RIGHTEOUS
INDIGNATION, YOUR
GRAB FOR POWER
THEN?

WAITING FOR THE
MOMENT WHEN YOU AND
YOUR SCUMBAG SUPPORTERS
STARTED TO ADVERSELY
AFFECT OUR BOTTOM LINE SO
I COULD GAIN THE BACKING
OF OUR STOCKHOLDERS.

AS A RESULT OF
A SHORT-TERM
PROBLEM THAT
HAS SINCE BEEN
AMELIORATED.

BUT NOT
BEFORE SHOWING
YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY
TO THE NEW YORK
TIMES, S.H.I.E.L.D. AND
ABOUT FIVE STATE
AND FEDERAL
AGENCIES.

THAT'S
WHAT WE HAVE
LAWYERS FOR.

TEMPORARILY. THE
ONLY WAY YOU'LL
REMOVE ME AS CEO
IS OVER MY COLD,
DEAD BODY.

OH,
PLEASE...

WOLVERINE

Well, Wolvie fans, that just about wraps up "Vendetta," but before you guys and gals get all emotional on me (Logan hates cry babies by the way), let me remind you that there's still one more issue of Guggenheim and Ramos goodness and believe me when I say you won't want to miss it. But before I get into all of that, it's time to open up the mailbag and present a few of our favorite letters of the month.

Dear Sirs,

I just wanted to say that Marc Guggenheim is writing one of the best WOLVERINE stories in the history of the series. I know he's not staying on past 48 (sadly), so how about putting him on a NAMOR series? Guggenheim's take on Namor and the Atlanteans is one of the best I've seen, so how 'bout making it a permanent arrangement?

Thanks very much,
Adam White
Internet

Hey Adam! Yes, you're correct that Marc will be moving on after Wolverine #48 to make room for a terrific X-Mas Special courtesy of writer Rob Williams and artist Laurence Campbell

and then the superstar team of Jeph Loeb and Simone Bianchi. But did you really think we'd leave Marc in the dust? We've got all sorts of plans to keep him around and, heck, if he wants to do a Namor series, I certainly wouldn't get in his way! (After all, he fights dirty.)

Guys,

Well, where do I start? Wolverine is on the rise again, but how long before Mr. Ramos departs? Can we keep him around for a while as I enjoy his quality art as much as the storyline? I would like to see him do a lengthy run on par with such artists as Bagley, Buscema and Romita; they are a dying breed these days. Please let me know.

Cheers,
Barry Simshauser
Darwin, Australia

Jeez! First a Marc-lover and now a Humberto-lover! We appreciate the sentiment, Barry, but as Adam pointed out, issue #48 is Humberto's last issue of Wolverine. The good news is that I have a strong feeling Humberto will be drawing Wolverine again in the near future. A very strong feeling.

Dear editor,

I have been a fan of Raimos for quite some time and a fan of Wolverine for some time longer still. When I found out Humberto was going to be penciling my favorite honorable cold blooded killer, I was excited. I have my favorites... ASM, New Avengers, Hulk, Daredevil etc...but Wolverine was a consistently good read.

Now I'd have to say that aside from all the great Civil War stories, Wolverine has risen to the top of my list. The art and the scripts are stunning. I only hope that I can see a LOT of this current team. I loved Namor's part in the current plot and although logically the Iron Man armor maybe didn't fit in quite the way I wanted it to, it was fun and well worth the creative gamble (if there really was one).

eMpyre ramireX
Internet

We're glad you're loving the book and we'll do our best to keep it at the top of your list month in and month out.

--Michael

NEXT MONTH in Wolverine #48:



Ever wonder what happens to Logan after he gets blown up, set on fire, cut into tiny pieces, or smashes into the earth at 400 miles an hour and just before his miraculous healing factor brings him bouncing back for more? Turns out that for Wolverine, the afterlife may just be fraught with more danger than anything he faces in the physical world. In this shocking epilogue, Marc Guggenheim and Humberto Ramos wrap up their mega-hit "Vendetta" with some fascinating insight into the one thing Logan's healing factor can't repair—his soul!

AVAILABLE NOW in Wolverine Origins #7:



Two words, folks: OMEGA RED. He's taken on the X-Men before, so what chance does Wolverine have against him alone? Plus, a crucial flashback connects some of the dots from Logan's past as a member of Team X. Don't miss "Savior" part 2 or Daniel Way and Steve Dillon will track you down!

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